

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
ROUTING SLIP

Memo Chrono

TO:

		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1	DCI		X		
2	DDCI		X		
3	EXDIR		X		
4	D/ICS		X		
5	DDI		X		
6	DDA		X		
7	DDO		X		
8	DDS&T		X		
9	Chm/NIC				
10	GC		X		
11	IG		X		
12	Compt		X		
13	D/OLL		X		
14	D/PAO		X		
15	D/PERS				
16	VC/NIC				
17	Chm/SECOM		X		
18	ES		X		
19					
20					
21					
22					

SUSPENSE

Date

Remarks

The attached was delivered to Bernie McMahon for Durenberger last night. Copies are being handcarried to all SSCI members and HPSCI Chairman Hamilton this morning.

Executive Secretary

15 Nov 85

Date

3637 (10-81)

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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

Executive Registry

85- 4541

14 November 1985

The Honorable David F. Durenberger
Chairman, Select Committee on Intelligence
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Durenberger:

When Congressional oversight of the Intelligence Community is conducted off-the-cuff through the news media and involves the repeated compromise of sensitive intelligence sources and methods, not to mention unsubstantiated appraisals of performance, it is time to acknowledge that the process has gone seriously awry.

Your remarks to the press as cited in the Washington Post and other newspapers on 14 November are the most recent example. I am dismayed by your comments regarding our alleged "failure to understand the Soviet Union," particularly in light of the fact that this is the first time you have expressed such concern over our work in this area. Recently the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board examined intelligence support to arms control. In his report, Henry Kissinger, who has led this effort, stated, "these analyses are far better than anything I saw on the subject when I was in government."

Your alleged comments that we do not consider in longer range evaluations brewing crises such as the Philippines, the rise of Shiite Muslim fundamentalism or the energy problem are tragically wrong. These are all areas where the Intelligence Community has produced an enormous number of long range studies over the last six years or more and where we have been far out in front. Your remarks betray a lack of familiarity with the many intelligence studies in the SSCI vault.

Your views on the quality of our work in all of these areas are directly contradicted by statements you and a number of other members of the Committee have made privately about the high quality of our work generally and on these problems in particular. I can only wonder at the contrast between what you say to us privately and what you say to the news media.

Not only have we not heard such criticism from you before, but such hearings as the SSCI has held on these issues certainly would not substantiate your remarks. Neither I nor my associates are aware of specific criticism from the Committee of work that we have done in these areas.

One of the reasons I have supported your request for a national intelligence strategy is that I want to codify for the committee in one document the long range planning papers from which we now work and have been for years. I hope this will focus the oversight committees on the substantive and longer range challenges posed to the Intelligence Community rather than events in the current day headlines. This process has, of course, been briefed to the Committee piecemeal over the years and maybe there is not a full understanding of it.

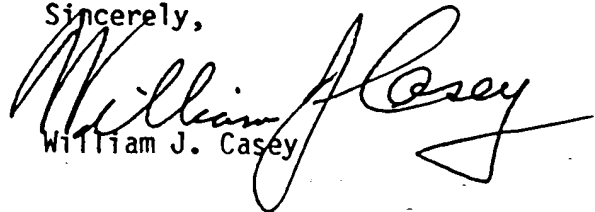
Your comments are disturbing not only because they are unfounded, so different from what you and members of the Committee tell us privately, and shared with the news media instead of with us but, more importantly, because of their disheartening impact on our officers overseas and at home. What are they to think when the Chairman of the Senate Select Committee offhandedly, publicly and inaccurately disparages their work?

I have heard from your staff today and on previous occasions that you didn't really say what you were quoted as saying. That's not the point. Public discussion of sensitive information and views revealed in a closed session of an oversight committee is always damaging and inadvisable.

As we have discussed many times, if the oversight process is to work at all it cannot do so on the front pages of American newspapers. The cost in compromise of sources, damaged morale, and the effect on our overall capabilities is simply too high.

We have some recommendations which we are prepared to present to your Committee in closed session.

Sincerely,


William J. Casey

12 February 1985

Senate Select Committee on Intelligence

Dave Durenberger (R., MN), Chairman	Patrick J. Leahy (D., VT), V. Chm.
William V. Roth, Jr. (R., DE)	Lloyd Bentsen (D., TX)
William S. Cohen (R., ME)	Sam Nunn (D., GA)
Orrin G. Hatch (R., UT)	Thomas F. Eagleton (D., MO)
Frank H. Murkowski (R., AK)	Ernest F. Hollings (D., SC)
Arlen Specter (R., PA)	Bill Bradley (D., NJ)
Chic Hecht (R., NV)	David L. Boren (D., OK)
Mitch McConnell (R., KY)	Robert C. Byrd, (D., WV),
Robert J. Dole (R., KS),	Ex-Officio Member
Ex-Officio Member	

Office of Current Production and Analytic Support

CIA Operations Center

News Bulletin : The Washington Post, Front Page

15 November 1985

Item No. 1

Casey Accuses Durenberger Of Compromising CIA

By Patrick E. Tyler
and David B. Ottaway
Washington Post Staff Writers

CIA Director William J. Casey issued a public letter last night attacking the chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence for conducting intelligence oversight "off the cuff" in a manner that has resulted in the "repeated compromise of sensitive intelligence sources and methods."

The letter, addressed to Sen. David F. Durenberger (R-Minn.), said, "It is time to acknowledge that the [oversight] process has gone seriously awry" and accused Durenberger of undercutting the morale of CIA officers around the world. "What are they to think when the

chairman of the Senate Select Committee offhandedly, publicly and inaccurately disparages their work?" Casey asked.

Casey's letter referred to a report in yesterday's Washington Post in which Durenberger was quoted as charging that the CIA lacked "a sense of direction" and an adequate knowledge of long-range trends in the Soviet Union.

"I can only wonder," Casey said, "at the contrast between what you say to us privately and what you say to the news media."

In response to Casey's letter, Durenberger said last night, "An issue has been created where none exists. I continue to fully support Director Casey and the intelligence

community, both privately and publicly, and I'm confident that we can continue working toward our long-range goals, to achieve both effective congressional oversight and a comprehensive national intelligence strategy."

At a meeting with reporters Wednesday, Durenberger both praised and criticized Casey and the CIA in extended remarks. Though there was no discussion of the sensitive sources and methods Casey complained of, Casey has long contended that the "the Hill leaks everything" about sensitive and covert intelligence operations proposed or underway.

Among Durenberger's chief criticisms of the agency's leadership was an allegation that CIA analysts "aren't being told what it is we need [to know] about the Soviet Union." He also criticized the agency's assessment of the South African situation, saying there was a "vacuum" of independent information and that

(Page 1 of 2)

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the agency was relying too heavily on State Department views.

Durenberger claimed the intelligence process prevented CIA analysts from "look[ing] five years down the road" or taking into account brewing problems such as Shiite fundamentalism in the Middle East and political deterioration in the Philippines.

Casey called these criticisms of the agency he has headed for five years "tragically wrong."

"Your remarks betray a lack of familiarity with the many intelligence studies in the [committee's] vault," Casey said.

The CIA chief added, "The intelligence community has produced an enormous number of long-range studies over the last six years or more and where we have been far out in front."

Earlier in the day, Durenberger, in a letter and a meeting with wire service reporters, sought to clarify his Wednesday remarks, which had included an off-hand prediction that support for Casey among senators

on the committee would divide 8 to 7 if put to a vote.

"I think Bill is as good a DCI [director of central intelligence] as we've had in a long time, and that forgives a whole lot of things by saying that," Durenberger said to reporters Wednesday, adding, "It

***"Public discussion
of sensitive
information ... is
always damaging."***

—CIA Director William J. Casey

would be an 8-to-7 vote on the committee if I put it to a vote."

The committee consists of eight Republican and seven Democrats.

In Durenberger's clarifying letter yesterday, he said, "Our committee has no plans for such a vote nor, to my knowledge, are we split on any issue strictly along party lines."

Durenberger was incorrectly quoted in The Washington Post Wednesday as saying that he would recommend "legislation" downgrading Casey's job. Durenberger actually said he would consider a "recommendation" that restricted Casey to professional intelligence work with no policy formulation role.

"I did not state that the Intelligence Committee is considering recommending legislation which would substantially downgrade the CIA director's role. Our committee is not considering such legislation," Durenberger said.

Casey, noting that Durenberger had made attempts to clarify his remarks during the day, said last night, "That's not the point."

"Public discussion of sensitive information and views revealed in a closed session of an oversight committee is always damaging and inadvisable," Casey said. "As we have discussed many times, if the oversight process is to work at all, it cannot do so on the front pages of American newspapers. The cost in compromise of sources, damaged morale and the effect on our overall capabilities is simply too high."

(Page 2 of 2)